

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Bulgaria** REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT **Living Conditions in Oryakhovitsa, Pleven Okoliya** DATE DISTR. **7 July 1955** 25X1

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PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Oryakhovitsa (M43-35, E24-23) is situated on the Pleven-Oryakhovo highway, 30 kilometers from Pleven and 40-45 kilometers from Oryakhovo. The village consists of 800 families, only 8-10 of which have not joined the cooperative farm (TKZS).
2. The Oryakhovitsa cooperative farm, known as "TKZS Molotov", owns 2500 decars of land, 1500 sheep and 50 cows and horses. The TKZS does not possess any modern farm machinery; these machines are obtained from the MTS (Machines and Tractor Station) at Trustenik (M43-41, E25-52).
3. At the time it was formed, only about 10 percent of the farmers joined the Oryakhovitsa TKZS voluntarily. After a while, however, most of the other farmers were forced to join, and living conditions for them immediately became very difficult. The farmers were forced to work like slaves and received very little of their crops in return. Those farmers who were unable to bear the life under the cooperatives left for other towns and cities to seek employment in factories or mines. Currently, this is forbidden by the government, as orders have been given to the factories to refuse such applications for employment. This was done in order to keep the farmers from leaving the TKZS.
4. The farmers at the Oryakhovitsa TKZS are poor and hungry and have no freedom. Their standard of living is becoming lower day by day. Everything they produce is taken by the government, and they receive very little in return. Sometimes the quota set by the government is more than a farmer can deliver, in which case he must go to another village, buy the products at a high price, and turn it over to the government at a low price. In addition, the farmers

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must subscribe to the Internal National Loans. As the cost of living is higher than earnings, the farmers must sell their possessions to make up the difference.

5. Recently, the government cut prices, but this had no effect on the standard of living. The people nostalgically recall life as it was before 1944 and hope that those days will return.
6. Miners receive higher wages than farmers, but they must work under very difficult conditions. At every mine, oilfield, or industrial establishment there are certain fixed norms which the employee must produce. If they are unable to meet these norms, they receive no pay. The work norms are very high so that one must expend all his energy in order to fulfill them. This causes the workers to be frequently ill.
7. In order to sell his produce at the free market, a farmer must have the necessary documents to show that he has turned his assigned quota over to the government. The free market vendors are constantly checked, and those who do not have the necessary documents are sent to prison for two or more years.
8. For one day's work in 1954, the Oryakhovitsa TKZS gave the following to each member:
 - a. 700 grams of wheat;
 - b. two kilograms of corn;
 - c. 17 grams of white cheese;
 - d. 25 grams of sugar; and
 - e. an unknown amount of money.

The amounts differ at each TKZS; if the TKZS produces more, the members are paid more.

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